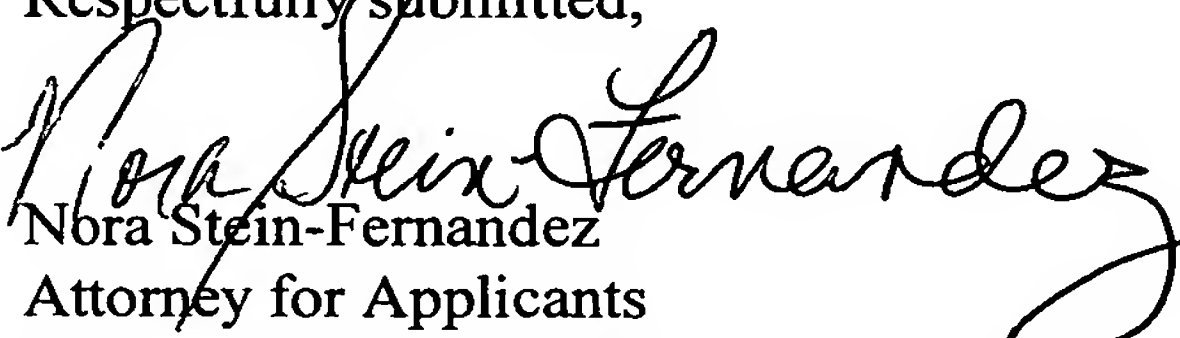


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/003235 into the U.S. National Phase of prosecution. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-16 and 18 have been amended in accordance with U.S. claim format. Claims 8 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-18 remain pending in this application.

In the specification, a new paragraph has been added to the first line of the specification to include the priority information. An Abstract on a separate sheet is attached as required under 37 CFR 1.72(b). Accordingly, favorable consideration of claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-18 and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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